PRESERVATION OF EXISTING VEGETATION

DEFINITION & PURPOSE

Permanent preservation of existing vegetation and topsoil minimizes the area of disturbance, reducing the need for erosion and sediment control BMPs and the potential for violations. It also provides a financial benefit by reducing the cost of grading, BMPs, topsoil, and seeding. Preserved areas can provide long-term stormwater benefits through increased absorption of rainfall compared to turf grass areas with compacted soil.

CONDITIONS FOR EFFECTIVE USE

Preservation of existing vegetation requires planning and should be the first step in the design process. The site should be surveyed to identify high quality soils, trees, vegetation, and steep slopes to be preserved. The site improvements, including any temporary roadways, should be designed around these features and follow existing contours to reduce cutting and filling. Sediment control BMPs such as compost filter sock or silt fence may be desirable to protect the preservation area from significant sediment accumulation.

INSTALLATION/CONSTRUCTION PROCEDURES

Protection of preservation areas with temporary construction fencing and any sediment control BMPs shall be provided prior to the commencement of clearing and grubbing operations or other soil-disturbing activities. Construction materials, equipment storage, and parking areas should be located outside of protected areas where they will not cause root compaction.

OPERATION & MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES

During weekly and rain event inspections, verify that temporary construction fencing and any sediment control BMPs to protect preservation areas are still in place and operational. If the area to be preserved is adjusted during construction, update the site plan and document the update in Appendix D – SWPPP Amendment Log.

SITE CONDITIONS FOR REMOVAL

Temporary fencing and any sediment control BMPs shall be removed after final stabilization of the site has occurred.

COMPANION BMPs

- Tree Preservation